

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Thane M. Larson et al.

Serial No.: 09/924,163

Filed: August 7, 2001

Docket No.: 10012383-1

Title: DEDICATED SERVER MANAGEMENT CARD WITH HOT SWAP FUNCTIONALITY

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action mailed May 26, 2006. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong, U.S. Patent No. 6,528,904 ("Wong") in view of Thornton, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0225794 ("Thornton"). Claims 5, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Thornton and further in view of Bassman, U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman").

With this Response, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application and are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong, U.S. Patent No. 6,528,904 ("Wong") in view of Thornton, U.S. Publication No. 2004/0225794 ("Thornton").

Independent claim 1 recites "wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management network."

Independent claim 8 recites "the dedicated management card coupled to the plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card" and "communicating with an external management network via the LAN switch."

Independent claim 14 is directed to a management-dedicated server management card, and recites "a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards."

The Examiner acknowledged that Wong does not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14:

As for claims 1, 8, . . . Wong discloses all the limitations as above except wherein the management card includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to the plurality of host processor cards and an external management

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network. However, Thornton discloses a LAN interface switching unit which is configurable to route encoded signals from one or more of a plurality of computer cards to one or more LAN devices (external) to the removable function module. (paragraph 24-29)

...
As for claim 14, . . . Wong discloses all the limitations as above except a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to the controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of the plurality of removable cards. However, Thornton discloses a LAN interface switching unit which is configurable to route encoded signals from one or more of the plurality of computer cards to one or more LAN devices to the removable function module. (paragraph 24-29) (Office Action at para. no. 2, pages 2-4).

Thornton discloses a computer system that includes various switch boards. (See, e.g., Thornton at Figure 8, and corresponding description). However, like the Wong reference, Thornton also does not teach or suggest a server management card that includes a LAN switch. In fact, there is no teaching or suggestion in Thornton regarding a server or a server management card, let alone a server management card that includes a LAN switch. The disclosure in Thornton regarding stand-alone switch boards or modules appears to add nothing to the Wong reference, which also discloses stand-alone switch blades 14, which "provide network switching of packets and routing for various protocol layers (Wong at col. 2, lines 36-38). The switch blades 14 disclosed in Wong are separate and distinct from the server management blades 10 and 12. There is no teaching or suggestion in Wong that the switch blades 10 and 12 could or should be incorporated into the server management blades 10 and 12. Likewise, there is no teaching or suggestion in Thornton that the switch boards disclosed therein could or should be incorporated into a server management card or server management blade.

Wong and Thornton do not teach or suggest a management card that includes a LAN switch configured to be coupled to a plurality of host processor cards and an external management network, as recited in independent claim 1. Wong and Thornton do not teach or suggest a dedicated management card coupled to a plurality of host processor cards via a LAN switch on the management card, nor do Wong and Thornton teach or suggest communicating with an external management network via a LAN switch on a management

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card, as recited in independent claim 8. Wong and Thornton do not teach or suggest a server management card with a multiple-port LAN switch having at least four ports, the LAN switch coupled to a controller and configured to be coupled to a management connection of at least one of a plurality of removable cards, as recited in independent claim 14.

In view of the above, independent claims 1, 8, and 14, are not taught or suggested by Wong and Thornton. In addition, dependent claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, and 18-20, which further limit patentably distinct claim 1, 8, or 14, are also believed to be allowable over the cited references. Allowance of claims 1-4, 6-10, 12-16, 18-20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wong in view of Thornton and further in view of Bassman, U.S. Patent No. 6,295,567 ("Bassman"). Dependent claims 5, 11, and 17, are dependent on independent claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively. As addressed above, Wong and Thornton do not teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14. Bassman also does not teach or suggest these limitations of independent claims 1, 8, and 14.

Dependent claims 5, 11, and 17 are also further distinguishable over the cited references. With respect to these claims, the Examiner acknowledged that Wong in view of Thornton "does not expressly teach temperature sensor and controlling fan speed." (Final Office Action at para. no. 5, page 4). Bassman discloses an embedded controller 605 that controls the speed of each fan. (Bassman at col. 8, lines 42-43). However, Bassman includes no teaching or suggestion that the embedded controller 605, or any portion thereof, could or should be incorporated into a management card as recited in the claims.

In view of the above, dependent claims 5, 11, and 17, which further limit patentably distinct claims 1, 8, and 14, respectively, and are further distinguishable over the cited references, are also believed to be allowable over the cited references. Allowance of claims 5, 11, and 17 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-20 are in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore,

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reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

No fees are required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)(c). However, if such fees are required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to either Jeff A. Holmen at Telephone No. (612) 573-0178, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005 or David A. Plettner at Telephone No. (408) 447-3013, Facsimile No. (408) 447-0854. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 24th day of August, 2006

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